

In size and stout build this specimen is more like *ruficollis*.
Measurements: Bill damaged; stout as in *ruficollis* but not quite as wide at base.
Wing 94; tail (very worn) *ca.* 67; tarsus 21 mm.

Wing formula. 1st: 8 mm. longer than primary coverts
2nd: 6 mm. shorter than third
3rd: longest
4th: 1 mm. shorter than 3rd
5th: 2 mm. shorter than 3rd

Jynx ruficollis

1st: 10 mm. longer than primary coverts
2nd: 11 mm. shorter than 3rd
3rd: 2 mm. shorter than 4th
4th: longest
5th: equal to 3rd

Jynx torquilla

1st: 6-7 mm. shorter than primary-coverts
2nd: 1-3 mm. shorter than 3rd
3rd: longest
4th: 1-2 mm. shorter than 3rd
5th: 4-6 mm. shorter than 3rd

The wing is more pointed than that of the resident *ruficollis* but less so than that of the migratory *torquilla*.

In considering the possibility of colour dimorphism, it is of course evident that this condition would not cause any morphological change. Moreover, a colour phase is almost a matter of different colouring and does not involve several deep-seated *patterns* as in this case.

The main difficulty is to account for the presence of a hybrid in an area where heretofore only one species has been known to occur. The fact that *J. torquilla* has never been recorded south of Uganda should not preclude the possibility of hybridization. Assuming that an abnormal (hormonal imbalance?) individual of *J. torquilla* would have headed south instead of north, it is logical to believe that a strayed bird would readily mate with an individual of the resident species. Admittedly this is merely hypothesis, but I cannot find a better explanation.

My thanks go to Miss N. Halliday who has kindly done the pen drawings of feathers.

Notes on some birds of central Peru

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While we were engaged in studies of woodpeckers of central Peru during July-September 1968 we observed and collected specimens of various other birds, noteworthy information about which is presented herein. The areas where we studied included the departments of Lima, Huanuco and Cerro de Pasco, extending from the Pacific Coast to the eastern slopes of the Andes. These investigations were supported by a United States National Science Foundation grant (GB-5891) to the senior author. We are grateful to Maria

Koepcke, John O'Neill, George Phillips, Edouardo Dargent and family, and Fred Kowalchuk for assistance rendered in Peru. We thank Eugene Eisenmann for suggestions benefiting this manuscript. The specimens obtained are in the collection of the American Museum of Natural History. In addition to the birds discussed more fully below, it may be noteworthy to mention our sighting of a Greater Yellowlegs (*Tringa melanoleucos*) on 22nd August at 6 km. west of the city of Cerro de Pasco. This date seems somewhat early for this sandpiper, although it has been recorded in Argentina in early September (Wetmore, 1926).

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

BLACK-BREASTED HILLSTAR. *Oreotrochilus melanogaster*, and **ANDEAN HILLSTAR**, *O. estella*. The very restricted range of the Black-breasted Hillstar previously was known to include only the departments of Lima and Junin. We saw several individuals at 8 km. west of the city of Cerro de Pasco on 20th-22nd August. This extends the range of the Black-breasted Hillstar north of the Peruvian altiplano into the hilly puna highlands of the Department of Cerro de Pasco. Two males were obtained from apparently adjacent territories along a rocky outcrop at an elevation of 4450 m. One specimen, preserved in formalin, weighed 8.7 gm. while the other weighed 9.5 gm. and had very small testes. The former was collected as it engaged in conflict with a male of the closely related and widespread Andean Hillstar (specimen obtained, weight 8.4 gm., testes small). In the two days prior to the conflict the Andean Hillstar was observed about a dozen times in the area immediately adjacent to that occupied by the male Black-breasted Hillstar. Their conflict took place near a rock used as a perch by the latter. Other individuals of *O. estella* were seen farther west and south along the same rocky outcrop. One Andean Hillstar male chased a female, presumably of this species, toward the senior author, who was startled when the female perched on a tiny rock ledge beside his face. The pursuing male turned aside a half meter away, hovered momentarily, and then darted off. Both species fed largely at the yellow flowers of a small, clustering hairy cactus (*Opuntia floccosa*?) that grows abundantly around rocky outcrops in the puna. The cacti and rocks were utilized by both species for perches. Andean Hillstars were noted flying out a short distance into the puna grassland, while no Black-breasted Hillstars were seen to do so. Otherwise the habits of these species seem quite similar to the extent of our limited observations.

WHITE-WINGED CINCLODES, *Cinclodes atacamensis atacamensis*. White-winged Cinclodes were encountered sporadically in the hilly upland puna of the Department of Cerro de Pasco where the species has not been recorded previously (Meyer de Schauensee, 1966: 241). This species frequented small, rocky ravines in moist puna in contrast to the ubiquitous Bar-winged Cinclodes (*C. fuscus*), which we encountered in all puna habitats. When flushed the White-winged Cinclodes flies upstream or downstream several feet above the water. It closely follows the water course and only occasionally passes over land to cut across a bend in the stream. On 24th August we obtained a female of this subspecies 35 km. north-west of the city of Cerro de Pasco at an elevation of about 4270 m. The bird weighed 54.7 gm. and had a somewhat enlarged (5×2 mm.) ovary.

SEASIDE CINCLODES, *Cinclodes nigrofumosus taczanowskii*. We observed

and collected this remarkable cinclodes at Buhama Baja, 95 km. south of Lima in late August and early September. Each pair patrolled an area of rocky seacoast vigorously defending their territory against encroaching conspecific individuals. Most territories included a small cove and its enclosed sandy beach. Birds sought food along the beach, but they foraged mainly on the rocks very much in the manner of a Purple Sandpiper (*Erolia maritima*) following retreating waves, foraging momentarily, then darting out of the way of the next wave. All foraging that we observed occurred in the tidal zone where waves were breaking. Their food consists mainly of small crustaceans (remains of 11 in one stomach). They often cease foraging to perch briefly and preen actively, usually on a prominent rock. This frequent preening may be correlated with the considerable time they spend in the ocean spray. It would be of interest to determine whether there are any physiological-anatomical adaptations relating to the unusual habits of these birds. To further this end we secured two specimens which we preserved in alcohol for future studies. One female taken on first September weighed 66.7 gm. and had an enlarged ovary (8×4 mm., ova to 2 mm.). This race has brown irides, black legs and a brown bill.

SHORT-TAILED FIELD-TYRANT, *Muscigralla brevicauda*. Several individuals of this peculiar, long-legged, short-tailed flycatcher were encountered in late August at Buhama Baja south of Lima. These flycatchers walk with an unusual gait punctuated by an up-down jerking of their tail. They foraged in cultivated fields and pastures along the edge of a low, brushy woodland, occasionally venturing as far as 100 m. from the woodland border. One bird walked thrush-like, frequently bounding a foot or so into the air, apparently catching insects about weed stalks, in which several Blue-black Grassquits (*Volatinia jacarina*) were feeding. We collected one as it foraged in a lettuce patch, and another while it foraged in a well-grazed pasture. A female with a slightly enlarged ovary weighed 13.5 gm. The other specimen, preserved in alcohol, weighed 11.8 gm. Both had pale rufous irides, pale yellow legs, yellow mouth lining and the bill was brown above and pale yellow with a dusky tip below.

FORK-TAILED FLYCATCHER, *Muscivora tyrannus tyrannus*. We were surprised to encounter a Fork-tailed Flycatcher feeding in an open field at Buhama Baja, south of Lima on 31st August. This species is not known from the Department of Lima (Koepcke, 1964) or indeed from coastal Peru. We secured the bird, a female which weighed 31.5 gm., exhibited no fat and had an enlarged ovary (6×3 mm.), but the ova were tiny. The dark mantle, configuration of the emarginated tips of the outer primaries and pale grey colouring of the sides of its breast indicate that it represents the highly migratory southern race *M. t. tyrannus*, which breeds in Argentina. Females of this species are rather more difficult to determine, however, and we note that the bill length (from nostril) of this specimen is but 10.6 mm., whereas most females of the race *tyrannus* have bills longer than 11.0 mm. Its enlarged ovary and lack of fat suggest that it was a migrant en route south to breed, but that it wandered off course to the west of the Andes, ending up along the Peruvian coast.

RUFIOUS-BACKED NEGRITO, *Lessonia rufa*. This flycatcher is locally common in the Andes, but has never been reported west of those mountains in the Department of Lima (Koepcke, 1964). On 31st August we observed an adult male Rufous-backed Negrito near the coast at Buhama Baja. Unfor-

tunately we were unable to collect the bird, but we observed it closely and were familiar with this distinctive species. This apparently represents the first report of the species from coastal Peru.

THRUSH-LIKE WREN, *Campylorhynchus turdinus*. We secured a specimen of this wren on 17th August at 15 km. north-east of Tingo Maria in the Department of Huanuco. In his monograph of the genus *Campylorhynchus*, Selander (1964) pointed out that very little information is available concerning the Thrush-like Wren. The bird we collected was one of a pair frequenting a natural cavity 10 m. up in an isolated dead tree in a small marsh surrounded by second growth moist subtropical forest. We were unable to determine whether the birds observed were carrying food, but this may have been the case. At any rate they persistently visited the cavity during two hours of observations. The same tree was utilized also by as many as seven individuals of the woodpecker *Melanerpes cruentatus*, occupying two active nesting cavities about 6 m. above the cavity utilized by the wrens. This was the only pair of Thrush-like Wrens observed in this area during three days of concentrated field work. Selander (*op. cit.*, p. 24) noted that the iris colour of this species was unknown; the adult we collected had pale orange-rufous irides. Its legs were dusky grey, and its bill was brown above and ivory below with ivory-coloured tomtia. The specimen, preserved in alcohol, originally weighed 38.8 gm. We examined the specimen in the American Museum of Natural History several months later, and found it to be a female with a brood patch, an enlarged ovary (8×4.5 mm., ova to 1 mm. or more), and an enlarged (probably used) oviduct. The above observations and data from the specimen suggest that this species at least occasionally nests in natural cavities.

TIT-LIKE DACNIS, *Xenodacnis parina petersi*. Several individuals of this rare species were observed 8th-9th August at 4270 m. elevation along the Chiquian-Huallanca road 21 km. north-west of Huallanca just inside the Department of Huanuco from the border of the Department of Ancash. Two pairs foraged in low bushes on a rocky hillside in otherwise open moist puna. At the time of our visit it froze nightly and snowed in flurries each afternoon. The birds could not be observed readily because of the dense foliage of the bushes. One male was collected as it sang a rambling, warbled song. The specimen, weighing 15.4 gm., was preserved in alcohol. Approximately five individuals were observed on 10th August at 3810 m. elevation along the same road but 7 km. north-west of Huallanca. In this situation the birds foraged in bushes and small trees surrounding a grove of *Polylepis* (sp.) trees in a small valley. The slopes above the grove are covered with typical puna grasses. An adult male (weight 15.8 gm., testes $2 \times 1\frac{1}{2}$ mm., iris colour brown, mouth lining pale yellow, bill and legs black) was obtained as it fed at small yellow flowers in the top of a tree (species unknown) 3 m. tall. A female weighing 13.1 gm., with a small ovary and incompletely ossified skull was collected in a neighbouring bush.

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